

Press Release

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E-PHARMACIES ARE KILLING RETAIL CHEMISTS OF THE COUNTRY

The online pharmacy business activities being conducted by several big foreign and indigenous corporations have created an adverse impact on crores of wholesale and retail chemists of the Country because of open defiance of Drug and Cosmetics Act and rules and also their indulging in anti-consumer practices and risking the safety and health of the Indian consumers and therefore, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has urged Union Health Minister Shri Mansukh Mandaviya to look in to this critical issue on urgent basis. The CAIT has decided to organise a national level conference of prominent chemists Associations of different States of the Country in 1st week of March,2023. The Conference will decide future course of action on this issue and meanwhile a delegation of CAIT will soon meet Health Minister Shri Mansukh Mandaviya and Commerce Minister Shri Piyush Goyal to apprise them about blatant violations of e-pharmacies in the Country.

The manufacture, import, sale and distribution of drugs is regulated by the Drug and Cosmetics Act and Rules in India. The Act and Rules are stringent and make it mandatory not only for every importer, manufacturer, seller or distributor of drugs to possess a valid license but also make it mandatory that all drugs be dispensed by a registered pharmacist only. However, e-pharmacy marketplaces are misusing the loopholes in the law and playing with the lives of innocent Indian consumers by selling drugs without prescription and dispensing drugs without a registered pharmacist. E-pharmacy marketplaces like Pharmeasy, Tata 1Mg, Netmeds and Amazon Pharmacy are at the forefront of these blatant violations-said CAIT National President Shri B.C.Bhartia and Secretary General Shri Praveen Khandelwal in a joint statement today.

Shri Bhartia and Shri Khandelwal said that the Government should permit only those e-pharmacies that own the drugs which are purported to be sold on the e-pharmacy and rest of the e-pharmacies operating in the Country should be asked to down their shutters. Also, no person must be allowed to establish a web portal to act as an intermediary between the e-pharmacy entity and consumer . For instance, if a spurious, adulterated or misbranded drug gets delivered to the consumer, a marketplace like Pharmeasy or Netmeds will always hide behind intermediary protection which is a rampant malpractice even in e-commerce. An entity that wholly owns inventory will be liable in all circumstances;

Shri Bhartia and Shri Khandelwal urge the government to ensure that all drugs are disbursed only from the registered retail pharmacy and only by a registered pharmacist after following the due verification process to ensure consumers get exactly what they order. Both the trade leaders said that government should impose a minimum penalty of INR 1,00,000 which may extend to INR 10,00,000 so that violators like Pharmeasy, Netmeds, Amazon Pharmacy, Tata1Mg are suitably penalised.